

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

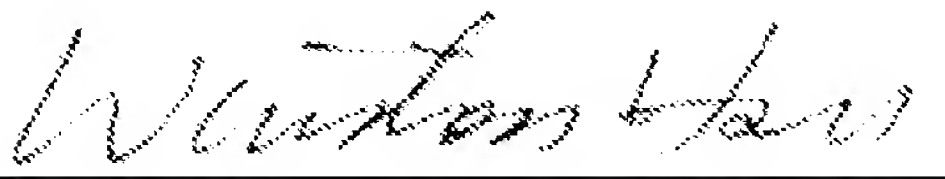
Applicants have respectfully rewritten a dependent claim 7 in independent form (in the form of the newly added Claim 21) by adding thereto the limitations of the parent claims (the original Claim 1 and Claim 6) and by canceling Claim 7 and adding a new independent Claim 21 to overcome the incorrect dependency of Claim 7 in the appeal brief submitted on 11/Jul/2007. The above amendments are fully consistent with the rules outlined below:

As recited in the MPEP 1206, rewriting dependent claims into independent form as permitted under 37 CFR 41.33(a)(2) includes the following situations:

(A) rewriting a dependent claim in independent form by adding thereto the limitations of the parent claim(s); and

(B) rewriting an independent claim to incorporate therein all the subject matter of a dependent claim, canceling the dependent claim and in conjunction therewith changing the dependency of claims which had depended from the dependent claim being canceled to the amended independent claim that incorporates therein all the subject matter of the now canceled dependent claim.

Sincerely yours,



Date: 12/05/2007

Winston Hsu, Patent Agent No. 41,526

P.O. BOX 506, Merrifield, VA 22116, U.S.A.

Voice Mail: 302-729-1562

Facsimile: 806-498-6673

e-mail : winstonhsu@naipo.com

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